REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-49 will remain in the application.

Claims 1-49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Brown et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,148,751, hereinafter "the '751 patent"), Brown et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,349,664, hereinafter "the '664 patent") or Fischer, III (Published U.S. Patent Application No. US 2002/0035957, hereinafter "Fischer").

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

It has been determined that the inventorship for the application should be corrected to properly include the co-inventors from the '751 and '664 patents, Victor G. Grinius and Cam M. Shaar. The error was made without deceptive intent. A request to correct inventorship under 37 CFR 1.48(a) and the required statements and declarations by the co-inventors will be submitted in the near future. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the '751 and '664 patents are not prior art.

Furthermore, the subject matter of many of the claims are not disclosed in the '751 and '664 patents. These include, for example, the systems for rotating the riser presented in claims 6-9, 20-22, 37-38, and 40,41, as well as the telescoping annular sheath presented in claims 25-33.

Fischer discloses using thrusters attached to a hull to reduce and/or control vortex-induced vibrations (VIV). The thrusters are external to the hull and use ambient water to

produce thrust (see paragraphs [0044] to [0046] and Figures 1a and 1b). Furthermore, Fischer discloses responding to existing VIV using thruster controlled by a complex, computer-controlled feedback system. Fischer does not disclose preventing VIV by discharging water from nozzles tangential to a marine riser's surface to reduce flow separation on the down-side of the surface.

Consider exemplary independent claim 1, which recites in relevant part:

"...(c) at least one pair of nozzles for discharging water carried by the conduit out of the annular sheath in a direction substantially tangential to the outer surface of the annular sheath; and

(d) when the marine is beset by a current, the discharge of water by the at least one pair of nozzles substantially preventing hydrodynamic drag and VIV that the marine riser would experience in the absence of the discharge of water by the at least one pair of nozzles."

Fischer does not disclose discharging water from a conduit through a nozzle to substantially prevent hydrodynamic drag and VIV that the marine riser would experience in the absence of the discharge of water by the at least one pair of nozzles. Accordingly, Applicants submits that claims 1-49 are allowable.